

CLAIMS:

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A method for executing ERP application requests in a computer-implemented ERP data processing system via a network, comprising the steps of:

(a) transmitting a HyperText Markup Language (HTML) input form to a browser executed by a client computer in said network for display on a monitor attached thereto;

(b) receiving a HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP) request from said browser to access said ERP System, wherein said request optionally includes data entered by said user into an HTML input form;

(c) transferring any data entered by said user into said HTML input form and any data stored in said requested HTML page into said ERP application API

(d) transferring control to said ERP application for execution;

(e) receiving output data from said ERP application in response to said transmitted data and request;

(f) merging said output data from said ERP application into a strongly typed Java object;

(g) transforming said strongly typed Java objects into a transmittable format, such as XML or HTML, and

(h) transmitting said HTML or XML object to said browser for display on said monitor attached to said client computer.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said merging step comprises the step of merging said output data from said ERP application into a strongly typed object form using an ERP Web Gateway, wherein said strongly typed object form comprises strongly typed Java objects.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said HTML input form, dynamic ERP Application data access, Java objects definitions and HTML report form are stored in form of XML files.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said XML file strongly couples said data in said ERP Application to said Java objects and said XML file which specifies the presentation of said Application data.

5. A method of converting ERP data in a database managed by an ERP application and accessed through an ERP API and ERP Message Agent API (MAAPI) to strongly typed data in Java objects comprising the steps of:

(a) reading a XML file containing said definition of said Java objects and their attributes; or HyperText Markup Language (HTML) statements which specifies presentation format;

10 (b) parsing each of said declarations and HTML statements to identify definitions of objects and their attributes; and

(c) creating said respective objects with their attributes

(d) populating said objects with data from said ERP data.

15 6. The method of claim 5, wherein said creating and populating of Java objects step comprises the steps of:

(a) opening a connection through said ERP API to said ERP Message Agent API (MAAPI);

(b) setting said Application object identifier, username and password using said MAAPI

20 (c) setting search key values

(d) instructing said ERP application to process said current object

(e) for every scroll level creating a corresponding object and setting its attributes with data from said ERP Application data; and,

(f) closing said connection to said ERP API.

25 7. A method of presenting strongly typed Java objects using HTML by merging Java objects with XML template files.

8. A client server ERP information handling system, for accessing by Internet, data managed by an ERP application comprising:

a client computer accessible to a user having a web browser adapted to send information, in an Internet acceptable language, from an ERP database to a user and to
5 send requests destined for said ERP database;

a web server for sending said panels to and receiving said requests from said client computer;

an ERP web gateway in communication with said web server for converting said requests from said web server into language format required by an interface of said ERP
10 application and to convert information received from said interface of said ERP; and,

an ERP application for controlling access to a database containing information requested by a user.

9. An article of manufacture for use in a computer system comprising a computer readable medium for storing statements or instructions for use in execution in a computer
15 in accordance with the method of any of claims 1, 2, or 3.

10. An article of manufacture for use in a computer system comprising a computer readable medium for storing statements or instructions for use in execution in a computer in accordance with the method of any of claims 4, 5, or 6.

11. An article of manufacture for use in a computer system comprising a computer
20 readable medium for storing statements or instructions for use in execution in a computer in accordance with the method of any of claims 7, or 8.